CSP Enrollment Categories

2006

Oregon Natural Resources Conservation Service



For more information, visit the Oregon NRCS Web site:

www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

...or contact your local NRCS field office:

Klamath Falls: (541) 883-6924 ext. 113

La Grande: (541) 963-4178

How to Determine Your Enrollment Category for the Conservation Security Program

On the following Enrollment Category Worksheets, please indicate the conservation practices and activities you have completed on your land. This will help determine the enrollment category for your application.

Complete either the Cropland Worksheet or the Grazed Lands Worksheet...

Complete the Enrollment Category Worksheets for the dominant land use, either cropland or grazed land, on the acres offered for CSP. **Cropland** includes: row crops, closely grown crops, hay or pasture in rotation with row or closely grown crops, orchards, vineyards, horticultural crops, and permanent hayland. **Grazed land** includes rangeland and pasture.

To complete the worksheets...

Mark the conservation practices and activities that have been in place on your land for the past 2 years or longer. The information will help determine the category in which your application is placed. Next, complete an initial category determination (page 6 if your dominant land use is cropland, or page 10 if you have mostly grazed land).

The next step...

Once you have completed your documentation and made an initial estimate of your enrollment category, NRCS conservation planning staff will assist you with making your final category determination and submitting your application. Please contact your local NRCS office to set up a time for an interview to complete this process.

For your interview, please bring this worksheet along with:

- Your completed CSP Fish & Wildlife Self-Assessment
- Your completed Water Quality Self-Assessment Worksheet
- Your completed New Practices and Enhancement Worksheet
- An extra copy of your CSP Self-Assessment Workbook or corresponding records
- Any other documentation of the conservation in place on your land, including:
 - 'as-built' documentation (drawings, engineering notes, etc.)
 - photographs
 - receipts
 - records of your pesticide and nutrient applications

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Cropland Enrollment Category Worksheet

Complete the following Cropland Enrollment Category Worksheet (on pages 2-5) only if cropland is the dominant land use on your offered acres for CSP. **Cropland** includes: row crops, closely grown crops, hay or pasture in rotation with row or closely grown crops, orchards, vineyards, horticultural crops, and permanent hayland. Place a check mark in the box if the listed practice has been in place on your land for 2 years or longer.

Practice Applied	Cropland Soil Quality 2006 CSP Enrollment Category Determination for Cropland
	Alley Cropping: with trees or shrubs planted in single or multiple rows with agronomic, horticultural crops or forages produced between rows of woody plants
	Conservation Crop Rotation: perennial grasses, legumes and forbs in rotation for a minimum of 2 years; or a high biomass crop every other year (already have cover crop as an activity); or a combination of crops to match soil water storage with crop water use needs
	Contour Buffer Strips: with permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established across the slope and alternated down the slope with parallel, wider cropped strips
	Contour Farming: or chards, vineyards, plantations and field-grown or namentals planted in parallel lines across and perpendicular to the dominant slope
	Cover Crops: small grains, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover
	Cross Wind Trap Strips: the use of herbaceous cover resistant to wind erosion
	Field Borders: a strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field
	Forage Harvest Management: for improved ground cover, protection from soil erosion, and improved soil characteristics
	Grassed Waterway: that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established with suitable vegetation
	Ground Cover: use of grasses, legumes or forbs maintained as permanent cover between rows in orchards, vineyards, plantations, field grown ornamentals, or cropped woodland
	Hedgerow Planting: with the establishment of dense vegetation
	Herbaceous Wind Barriers: with vegetation established in rows or narrow strips across the prevailing wind direction
	Irrigation Water Management: actions to reduce erosion, such as the use of polyacrylamide (PAM) or controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water
	Mulching: use of wood chips, leaf litter or other organic materials as a year-round cover between rows in orchards, vineyards, plantations, field grown ornamentals, or cropped woodland
	Pasture & Hayland Plantings/Improvements: to establish native or introduced grasses or legumes that improve forage quality and soil characteristics
	Residue Management: system with no-till or strip tillage systems to maintain plant residues on the soil surface year-round
	Riparian Forest Buffer: of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover: consisting of grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs immediately adjacent to water-courses
	Soil pH Management: use of soil amendments or activities to maintain the alkalinity and acidity at optimum levels for nutrient uptake, based on soil tests conducted per land grant university recommendations
	Soil Salinity Management: on irrigated cropland with soil amendments such as gypsum or sulfur

Practice Applied	Cropland Soil Qualitycontinued 2006 CSP Enrollment Category Determination for Cropland						
	Stripcropping: with row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in alternating across a field						
	/indbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment: of single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs						
	Your Number of Soil Quality Practices or Activities (in place for 2 years or longer) Add the number of boxes checked for Cropland Soil Quality on pages 2 & 3						

Cropland Water Quality					
-Permanent Vegetation Practices & Activities for Water Quality-					
Cover Crops: grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover					
Contour Buffer Strips: permanent, herbaceous vegetative cover established across the slope and alternated down the slope with parallel, wider cropped strips					
Critical Area Planting: that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates and physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices					
Crop Management Consultation: the use of certified crop advisors to provide recommendations on nutrient and or pest management activities					
Field Borders: a strip of permanent vegetation established at the edge or around the perimeter of a field					
Filter Strip: herbaceous vegetation between cropland, grazing land, or forestland and environmentally sensitive areas					
Integrated Pest Management: the use of scouting and economic thresholds to determine the method, timing and application of pest control methods					
Mulching: use of wood chips, leaf litter or other organic materials as a year round cover between rows in orchards, vineyards, plantations of field grown ornamentals, or cropped woodland					
Pasture and Hay Land Planting: to provide increased sod or perennial crops in rotation for a minimum of 2 years					
Riparian Herbaceous Cover: consisting of grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs					
Riparian Forest Buffer: trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies					
Vegetative Barriers: narrow strips of perennial vegetation planted in parallel lines across and perpendicular to the predominant slope					
-Water Management Practices & Activities-					
Soil Salinity Management: on irrigated cropland through a combination of drainage water management and amendments to move salts through the root zone					
Water Control Structures: to catch, manage and properly use water applications					
Water & Sediment Control Basins: to trap sediment and detain water					
Wetland Enhancement or Wetland Restoration & Rehabilitation: to increase function and value for water quality purposes					
Irrigation System with Micro-irrigation: for distribution of water directly to the plant root zone					

Practice Applied	Cropiana Water Qualitycontinuea 2006 CSP Enrollment Category Determination for Cropland					
	-Water Management Practices & Activities-					
	Irrigation System with MESA, LIPC, LEPA: or similar high-efficiency irrigation system to supply crop needs and that matches water application to crops, soils and topography					
	Irrigation Water Management, by determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of					
_	irrigation water and including: Improved system efficiency by evaluations and adjustment;					
	 Use of data from on-farm weather station; or Use of tensiometers or other techniques to assess and improve irrigation 					
	Drainage Water Management: through seasonal on-farm water storage and retention					
	Irrigation with a Tailwater Return System: which utilizes the collection, storage, and transportation of irrigation					
	tailwater for reuse					
	-Pest & Nutrient Management Practices & Activities for Water Quality-					
	Pest Management Activities, including any one of the following:					
	 Spot spraying activities and other control of noxious/invasive weeds; 					
	Minimizing pesticide use by selecting plant varieties to minimize the application of pesticides;					
	 Use of a risk assessment tool such as WINPST to select the least toxic pesticides and herbicides to minimize harmful environmental effects; 					
	 Use of local guidelines to set economic thresholds for pests to minimize use of pesticides and herbicides; 					
	• Use of biological control methods such as beneficial insects, genetically modified varieties, or livestock; or					
	 Use of cultural control methods such as rotations with allelopathic and smothering plants, intercropping, mulching, or plant removal 					
	Nutrient Management Activities, including any one of the following:					
	 Precise nutrient application of such as: banding, side dressing, injection or fertigation; 					
	Split nitrogen application to meet crop needs;					
	• Annual testing of soil and/or plant tissue for annual crops OR according to land grant university recommenda-					
	tions for perennial crops, and low input systems such as cropped woodland and marshes;					
	tions for perennial crops, and low input systems such as cropped woodland and marshes; • Use of yield monitoring data to determine nutrient needs;					
	Use of yield monitoring data to determine nutrient needs;					
	 Use of yield monitoring data to determine nutrient needs; Waste utilization to control pathogen and organic runoff; or 					
	 Use of yield monitoring data to determine nutrient needs; Waste utilization to control pathogen and organic runoff; or Feed management and additives Your Number of Water Quality Practices or Activities (in place for 2 years or longer)					
	 Use of yield monitoring data to determine nutrient needs; Waste utilization to control pathogen and organic runoff; or Feed management and additives Your Number of Water Quality Practices or Activities (in place for 2 years or longer) Add the number of boxes checked for Cropland Water Quality on pages 3 & 4					
	 Use of yield monitoring data to determine nutrient needs; Waste utilization to control pathogen and organic runoff; or Feed management and additives Your Number of Water Quality Practices or Activities (in place for 2 years or longer) Add the number of boxes checked for Cropland Water Quality on pages 3 & 4 Cropland Wildlife Habitat Brush Piles: located on the edge of fields or clearings in cropped woodland and marshes, with a minimum size of 4'					
	 Use of yield monitoring data to determine nutrient needs; Waste utilization to control pathogen and organic runoff; or Feed management and additives Your Number of Water Quality Practices or Activities (in place for 2 years or longer) Add the number of boxes checked for Cropland Water Quality on pages 3 & 4 Cropland Wildlife Habitat Brush Piles: located on the edge of fields or clearings in cropped woodland and marshes, with a minimum size of 4' x 4'x 4' and with at least 1 pile per 5 acres					

Practice Applied	Cropland Wildlife Habitat 2006 CSP Enrollment Category Determination for Cropland
	Diversification of Plant Species: in non-cropped areas for nester or attraction of beneficial insects.
	Forage Harvest Management: with timely cutting and removal of forages from the field as hay, green-chop or ensilage, or by mowing crops from the center of field outward
	Pest Management, by any one of the following:
	 Spot spraying activities and other control of noxious/invasive weeds;
	• Minimizing pesticide use by selecting plant varieties to minimize the application of pesticides;
	 Use of a risk assessment tool such as WINPST or others to select the least toxic pesticides and herbicides to minimize harmful environmental effects;
	• Use of biological control methods such as beneficial insects, genetically modified varieties, or livestock; or
	 Use of cultural control methods such as rotations with allelopathic and smothering plants, intercropping, mulching, or plant removal
	Pasture and Hayland Plantings /Improvement: establishing native or introduced forage species that provide additional benefits to wildlife
	Pasture & Hay in Rotation: perennial grasses, legumes and forbs in rotation for a minimum of 2 years
	Shallow Water Development: to provide open water on fields and moist soil areas to facilitate waterfowl resting and feeding and to provide habitat for reptiles, amphibians and other aquatic species
	Raptor Nesting Trees: maintain trees with forks 15 feet or more above ground; at least 2 trees per acre at openings of cropped woodland and marshes
	Snag and Cavity Trees: maintain at least 7 standing dead or nearly dead trees per acre in cropped woodland and marshes
	Stream Habitat Management: activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream
	Vernal Pools: maintain buffer zones around vernal pools and protect during harvest operations
	Wetland Enhancement: to increase wetland function and values
	Wetland Restoration and Rehabilitation: of a drained or degraded wetland to restore wetland functions and values
	Wildlife Habitat Management: by winter flooding of cropland fields for species in need of conservation
	Wildlife Habitat Management Plan: a state approved management plan or Private Lands Agreement that meets needs for food, cover or water for targeted species
	Windbreak and Shelterbelt Establishment: of single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs
	Hedgerow Planting: of dense heterogeneous vegetation in a linear design
	Field Borders: with permanent vegetation at the edge or around the perimeter of a field for wildlife
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover: consisting of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs
	Riparian Forest Buffer: of trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies
	Number of Practices or Activities for Wildlife Habitat (in place for 2 years or longer) Add the number of boxes checked for Wildlife Habitat on pages 4 & 5

2006 CSP Enrollment Categories for Cropland

Using the activities you selected on the Enrollment Category Determination Worksheets on pages 2-5, indicate the number of practices or activities you have applied for Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat. Use the Group determinations and your enrollment Tier to make an initial estimate of category (below). During your interview, NRCS will determine your soil conditioning index (SCI) and make your final category determination.

	Your CSP Category							
Enter your totals for each	# Soil Quality Practices (total from pg. 3)	# Water Quality Practices (total from pg. 4)	# Wildlife Habitat Practices (total from pg. 5)	Enter Your Group (see below)	Enter Your Enrollment Tier	Determine SCI or STIR	ed by NRCS Final Category	
practice type								

	CSP Cropland Groups							
Group	Criteria for Cropland							
	Soil Conditioning Index SCI	Stewardship Practices & Activities Soil Quality (In place for at least 2 years)	Stewardship Practices & Activities Water Quality (In place for at least 2 years)	Stewardship Practices & Activities Wildlife Habitat (In place for at least 2 years)				
1	SCI ≥ 0.70 or STIR rating ≤ 15	At least 2 unique practices or activities	At least 2 unique practices or activities	At least 2 unique practices or activities				
2	SCI ≥ 0.50 or	At least 1 unique practice or activity	At least 1 unique practice or activity	At least 1 unique practice or activity				
	STIR rating ≤ 30	Plus: one additional practice from any of the above areas						
3	SCI of ≥ 0.25 or STIR rating ≤ 60	At least 1 unique practice or activity At least 1 unique practice or activity At least 1 unique practice or activity						
4	SCI of ≥ 0.10 or At least 2 unique practices or activities from any of the areas STIR rating ≤ 100							
5	Must meet the minimum program eligibility requirements							

CSP Cropland Categories								
Category	Category Tier I Tier II Tier III							
Α	Not Applicable	Group 1 or 2	Group 1, 2 or 3					
В	Group 1	Group 3	Group 4					
С	Group 2	Group 4	Group 5					
D	Group 3	Group 5						
E	Groups 4 and 5		-					

Grazed Land Enrollment Category Worksheet

Complete the following Grazed Land Enrollment Category Worksheet (on pages 7-9) only if dominant land use on your offered acres for CSP is either rangeland or pasture. Place a check mark in the box if the listed practice has been in place on your land for 2 years or longer.

Practice Applied	Grazed Land Soil Quality & Plant Health 2006 CSP Enrollment Category Determination for Grazed Lands							
	Brush Management: for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants							
	Pasture and Hay Plantings: by establishing permanent vegetative cover							
	Range Planting: to establish adapted perennial vegetation and improve plant diversity							
	Prescribed Burning: by applying controlled fire to a predetermined area							
	Grassed Waterway: that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established with suitable vegetation							
	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment: modifying physical soil and/or plant conditions							
	Channel Bank Stabilization: by establishing and maintaining vegetation							
	Soil Salinity Management: on non-irrigated grazing lands							
	Prescribed Grazing Management, including any one of the following:							
	 Bottomland or riparian area treated as a separate grazing treatment unit with alternative watering facilities in place; 							
	Grazing distribution facilitated by managing watering locations and rotating feeding and salting areas;							
	 Use of decision support tools in development of grazing and/or animal management plans, such as Grazing Lands Spatial Analysis Tool (GSAT), Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL), etc; 							
	Participation in grass-banking or stockpiling; or							
	Application of monitoring plan for improved grazing management							
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover: improvements with diversified cover consisting of grasses, grass-like plants, and forbs							
	Irrigation Water Management: properly determining and controlling the volume, frequency, and application rate of irrigation water in a planned, efficient manner							
	Heavy Use Area Protection: and stabilization by establishing vegetative cover, surfacing with suitable materials, and/or installing needed structures							
	Number of Soil Quality Practices or Activities (in place for 2 years or longer) Add the number of boxes checked above							

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Practice Applied	Grazed Land Water Quality 2006 CSP Enrollment Category Determination for Grazed Lands						
	Prescribed Grazing Management: by use of decision support tools in development of grazing and/or animal management plans, such as Grazing Lands Spatial Analysis Tool (GSAT), Nutritional Balance Analyzer (NUTBAL), etc., or application of monitoring plan						
	Brush Management: for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants						
	Water Well: constructed to access aquifers and move livestock away from water courses						
	Watering Facility: for providing animal access to water away from natural water bodies						
	Critical Area Planting : establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates and physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices						
	Fence: (sensitive area protection only) to control movement of animals and people						
	Spring Development: that provides water for a conservation need						
	Pipeline: installed to convey water for livestock or wildlife						
	Nutrient Management, by any one of the following:						
	 Soil and/or plant tissue test every 3 years on pastures not receiving confinement wastes or annual tests where confinement wastes are applied; 						
	 Direct injection of animal wastes; or Split nitrogen applications to meet current crop needs 						
	• Split nitrogen applications to meet current crop needs						
	Integrated Pest Management: to control weeds, brush, insects, or diseases						
	Stream Crossing: constructed to allow travel route for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles						
	Stream Habitat Management: activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream						
	Streambank and Shoreline Protection: treatments to stabilize and protect banks of streams, constructed channels, shorelines of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries						
	Water and Sediment Control Basins: to trap sediment and detain water						
	Livestock Watering Areas: that have controlled access						
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover: improvements with additions of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs						
	Wetland Enhancement or Wetland Restoration and Rehabilitation: to increase function and value for water quality purposes						
	Waste Utilization: to control pathogen and organic runoff						
	Number of Water Quality Practices or Activities (in place for 2 years or longer) Add the number of boxes checked for Water Quality above						

Practice Applied	Grazed Land Practices for Wildlife Habitat 2006 CSP Enrollment Category Determination for Grazed Lands							
	Channel Bank Stabilization: by establishing and maintaining vegetation							
	Critical Area Planting: that establishes permanent vegetation on sites with high erosion rates and physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal practices							
	Diversification of Plant Species: in cropped areas Pasture and Hay Plantings: of diversified native or introduced forage species							
	Prescribed Burning: by applying controlled fire to a predetermined area							
	Riparian Herbaceous Cover: improvements with additions of grasses, grass-like plants and forbs							
	Spring Development: that provides water during critical times							
	Stream Habitat Improvement: management activities to maintain, improve, or restore physical, chemical and biological functions of a stream							
	Streambank and Shoreline Protection: treatments to stabilize and protect banks of streams, constructed channels, shorelines of lakes, reservoirs, or estuaries							
	Water Well: constructed to access aquifers							
	Wetland Enhancement: to increase wetland function and values							
	Wetland Restoration and Rehabilitation: of a drained or degraded wetland to restore functions and values							
	Wildlife Watering Facility: designed to meets the needs of targeted species							
	Wildlife Habitat Management, by any one of the following:							
	• Application of an approved management plan or Private Lands Agreement that meets the needs for food, cover or water for targeted species;							
	• Enhance wildlife habitat linkages and corridors by creating a mosaic or pattern; or							
	Management that provides for shallow water and wetland wildlife habitat improvement							
	Prescribed Grazing Management, by any one of the following:							
	Adds functional group pastures to improve pasture condition;							
	Interseeding of desirable forages and legumes;							
	• Timed grazing on a portion of paddocks to create habitat for targeted species;							
	• Increased plant diversity - forbs and legumes greater than 40%; or							
	Patch burn/graze to improve wildlife habitat diversity and cover							
	Integrated Pest Management: activities for weeds, brush, insects, or diseases that include follow-up treatment							
	Brush Management: for removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants including brush piling and creation of mosaics							
	Range Planting: establishment of adapted diverse perennial vegetation							
	Provide Wildlife Corridors: with pathways for predators and large animals or plant diversity for nectar-loving species							
	Protection of Honey Trees: utilizing a physical barrier							
	Number of Practices or Activities for Wildlife Habitat (in place for 2 years or longer) Add the number of boxes checked for Wildlife Habitat above							

2006 CSP Enrollment Categories for Grazed Land

Using the activities you selected on the Enrollment Category Determination Worksheets on pages 7-9, indicate the number of practices or activities you have applied for Soil Quality, Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat. Use the Group determinations and your enrollment Tier to make an initial estimate of category (below). During your interview, NRCS will determine your soil conditioning index (SCI) and make your final category determination.

	Your CSP Category							
Enter your totals for each practice	Following a Grazing Management Plan	# Soil Quality Practices (total from pg. 3)	# Water Quality Practices (total from pg. 4)	# Wildlife Habitat Practices (total from pg. 5)	Enter Your Group (see below)	Enter Your Enrollment Tier	Determined by NRCS Final Category	
type								

CSP Groups							
Group	Criteria for Grazed Land						
	Vegetation and animal management accomplished by following a Grazing Management Plan	Stewardship Practices & Activities Soil Quality (In place for at least 2 years)	Stewardship Practices & Activities Water Quality (In place for at least 2 years)	Stewardship Practices & Activities Wildlife Habitat (In place for at least 2 years)			
1	Yes	At least 2 unique practices or activities	At least 3 unique practices or activities	At least 2 unique practices or activities			
2	Yes	At least 2 unique practices or activities	At least 2 unique practices or activities	At least 2 unique practices or activities			
3	Yes	At least 1 unique practice or activity	At least 1 unique practice or activity	At least 1 unique practice or activity			
4	Yes	At least 2 unique practices or activities from any of the areas					
5	Must meet the minimum program eligibility requirements						

CSP Grazed Land Categories							
Category	Tier I	Tier II	Tier III				
Α	Not Applicable	Group 1 or 2	Group 1, 2 or 3				
В	Group 1	Group 3	Group 4				
C	Group 2	Group 4	Group 5				
D	Group 3	Group 5					
E	Groups 4 and 5		_				

2006 CSP Subcategories

In addition to CSP categories, which are used to determine contract funding, CSP also includes subcategories. Categories will be funded in order (A-E). If an enrollment category cannot be completely funded, then subcategories will be used to determine funding in the order provided below. Please check any category that applies to you or your agricultural operation.

Funding Order	Subcategory	Applies to Applicant
1	Applicant is a limited resource producer, according to criteria specified in the USDA Limited Resource Farmers/Ranchers guidelines or a Tribal member producing on Tribal or historically tribal lands.	
2	Applicant is a participant in an on-going monitoring program that is sponsored by an organization or unit of government that analyzes the data and has authority to take action to achieve improvements.	
3	Agricultural operation is in a water conservation area or aquifer zone designated by a unit of government.	
4	Agricultural operation is in a drought area designated by a unit of government in the past three years before the sign-up dates.	
5	Agricultural operation is in a water quality area with a priority on pesticides designated by a unit of government.	
6	Agricultural operation is in a water quality area with a priority on nutrients designated by a unit of government.	
7	Agricultural operation is in a water quality area with a priority on sediment designated by a unit of government.	
8	Agricultural operation is in a non-attainment area for air quality or other local or regionally designated air quality zones designated by a unit of government.	
9	Agricultural operation is in an area selected for the conservation of imperiled plants and animals, including threatened and endangered species, as designated by a unit of government.	
10	Other applications.	